

## LOOKING AT LA PAZ.

The Americans are Queer Creatures.

## SEEING ALL SIDES OF LIFE THERE

Dirt and Disorder Reigning Supreme—A Readable Collection of Incidents Collected and Presented.

LA PAZ, L. C., Aug. 1, 1889.—[Special Correspondence of THE HERALD.]—Before bidding a final adieu to La Paz, to continue our journey up the almost

UNKNOWN GULF OF CALIFORNIA, we determined to view the surroundings of this old city. Mentioning our intention, horses were immediately placed at our disposal by the friendly citizens—it being taken for granted, quite as a matter of course, that the expedition would be made in the middle, after the universal fashion of the natives. But one can have quite enough of that method of locomotion in the rural districts of Mexico, and in traversing these long stretches of unoccupied country between the more thickly settled portions, without choosing it in the cities. Enquiry for a carriage was met by looks of blank amazement and an expression on everybody's face that seemed to say, "What queer creatures are those Americans." But so polite are the hospitable Californians that had we asked for a drumhead, an effort would have been made to gratify us; and after days of delay, a four-wheeled vehicle—except a coach, probably the only one in the southern peninsula—was finally secured. The alleged "coach," which it would be no sin to worship, according to scripture, it being not in the likeness of anything else—must be seen to be appreciated, or rather it must be ridden in. A long and narrow box, like a piano-cage, or a hearse, entirely guileless of springs, mounted high above four ponderous wheels, that swayed this way and that with an independent motion of its own; three backless benches inside covered with cow-skin, (the hair left on in lieu of other cushioning)—the whole covered topped with a canopy of unbleached cotton, and drawn by three mules. The Mexican cochero—eager to do his duty by the strangers and to prove himself a very capable fellow—like mad, up hill and down dale, over boulders and muds and ruts, and "thank-you-ma'am" cracking his long whip incessantly, and mistaking the warning with his "Mains! A-a-a-h-h-h!" No wonder

THE NATIVES WERE AMUSED at our choice, and themselves prefer journeying in the middle! The coach's pretty daughter accompanied as a guide and companion, and the way we were bowed about and battered black and blue, and had our bonnets flattened into shapeless ruins by violent contact with the top of the carriage, was pitiable to behold. Except in the vicinity of the landing, the streets of La Paz seem literally deserted—save by the dogs, who appear to outnumber the human population there three to one—with the usual phenomena observed in other parts of the world, that the poorest people maintain the greatest number of them. Big dogs and little, aristocratic and mongrel, of every description followed us in ever-increasing crowds, each house contributing its quota—half barking in wildest excitement at the unusual spectacle, and stirring into denser clouds the dust that already enveloped us.

A destructive peculiarity of this ancient capital is its luxuriant foliage amid the desert sands—every casa being surrounded by lovely gardens, and even the humblest but embowered amid shrubs and flowers, with blossoming creepers entwined among its thatch, under the shelter of a spreading orange or home-granite tree.

Wishing to see all sides of life, we accepted every invitation, among the lofty and the lowly, the rich and the poor; and many pleasant remembrances we shall retain of charming entertainments in elegant homes, and hospitality no less great and cordial, though of far humbler character, given to the stranger in a spirit of a social kindness. In this aristocratic mansion of the wealthiest pearl merchant, we thoroughly enjoyed a sumptuous dinner of fourteen courses, (all exactly alike, being Mexican), and came away laden with recollections, or souvenirs, of rare shells and beautiful flowers. To northern taste, her wonderful, soft, dark eyes, clear, olive skin and perfect features and figure made her

A DELIGHT TO LOOK UPON. But, strange to say, most Mexican gentlemen, to whom this tropical style of beauty is too familiar to excite special notice, prefer any plain, flat-footed, billions-complexioned, pale-eyed American woman up to the age of fifty, to the loveliest girls of their own race. Such is the insupportable nature of the genus homo in its search for novelties!

Accompanied by a Mexican matron we visited some friends of hers, whom she described as "sang decente" (very respectable, or well connected) though poor. Through a barber shop we went, back of which was a long, empty shed, and then a stable, wherein were stalled a couple of donkeys, a cow and some goats; and out of this stable a riotous flight of stairs ascended to the home above. As to all Mexico, the trades people of La Paz almost universally utilize the lower floors of their houses. If they chance to have a second story, and in any event the front story, they are almost always used for business, the family living contentedly above or in the rear. Despite the unimpressive entrance and the dirt and disorder that reigned supreme in all about us, and about about poverty to which we were introduced. The family comprised an incredible number of people, considering the cramped space, and more children and dogs than I dare attempt to enumerate; but everything seemed healthy and happy, and serene in the unshakable conviction that their own little isolated town was the most desirable place in all creation to live and die in. While the merry, but curious, children flung their clothing from hat to shoes and their elders pleasantly commoted thereon, small gifts were exchanged according to custom; wine and cigarettes were handed around, and confidential chatter went on amid clouds of smoke from feminine lips. Upon the wall I noticed that familiar caricature of the Garfield family—the death-bed scene—the coarsest of prints, painful enough to make the martyred president uneasy in his grave, but which was regarded with great pride by the mistress of the mansion.

We tried in vain to purchase a photograph of some of the La Paz; but here is a city nearly three hundred years old and one of the most picturesque in existence, which

A PHOTOGRAPH HAS NEVER INVADED.

Hesides pearls and mother-of-pearl shells, silver bullion and ore, the exports of the section are hides, salt, deer skins, tortoise shells, oranges, panchos, orchilla moss and damiana—the latter being an herb extensively used for tea. But here is the place to buy corn and beautiful shells of all kinds. Among the middle and lower classes, everybody keeps them for sale; while boys follow the stranger about the streets with baskets full, or row to the ship's side with canoe loads of them to sell to passengers. Though remote from "the world's busy mart," they are not at all behind in the trade of trade, and will come down gracefully from a five dollar demand to twenty-five cents if they find you are not to be swindled. Among other rare and curious trophies of the sea one may purchase "porcupine fish"—or rather, their empty hides, dried and inflated, every quill standing erect and eyes, mouth and fins like Mrs. Farrington's crocodile—"large as life and twice as natural." Nearly every species of edible fish to be found in the world, abound in these waters, in greater numbers than elsewhere and of extraordinary size and brilliancy of coloring.

Enormous sword-fish sometimes attack vessels, and have been known to leave their formidable swords firmly imbedded in the timbers. Sharks of several species abound, among them the "thresher" and the "hammer-headed" variety; and in the upper waters of the gulf, the dreaded of all, the gigantic tiburon, that frequently attain a length of thirty feet and weigh upwards of a thousand pounds.

Another creature, equally feared by fishermen and pearl divers, is the manta raga, a species of ray fish, of enormous strength and almost human cunning, is occasionally encountered. When the United States hydrographic survey was made of these waters, a few years ago, the sailors captured one of these monsters in La Paz bay, after a desperate struggle of several hours, during which the rays exhibited enormous strength, pulling a boat, fully manned, at intervals, for a long distance. It measured 17 feet wide and 11 feet long (exclusive of tail, which was armed with a spine) and over 3 feet in thickness at the middle. Its mouth,

ARMED WITH FORMIDABLE JAWS, (no teeth) measured 36 inches across, and occupied the space between two singularly shaped flaps, projecting from its head like horns. Its weight was estimated at three thousand pounds, and it seems identical with the horned ray (sometimes called sea devil) of the Mediterranean.

Another singular fish with which these waters are swarming is the voepa volione, or "blue eye"—a kind of sun-fish which has only one large eye, about the size of a bullock's, set in the centre of the upper part of the body. Then there is the octopod, equally numerous, a devil-fish which inhabits the rocky cavities along shore, particularly in localities sheltered from the surf, where it lies quietly among the sea weeds, watching for its prey. Its arms, which are furnished with flat disks or suckers, are from ten to twenty feet in length. Terrible huggers, these, with which to select a victim, a prudent man, or beast, and afterwards devours the prey at leisure, with its sharp formidable bill.

A very curious phenomena in the waters of the gulf—that of extensive patches of red-colored water—is as noticeable to day as when seen by the earliest Spanish navigators, who first dubbed the gulf El Mar Vermelho—the vermilion sea. It is believed that the first scientific investigation of this phenomenon was made by Assistant Surgeon Thomas H. Streets, United States of the Nautilus, in the year 1875. He makes a distinction between the vermilion patches at the mouth of the gulf, and the brick-colored and corrosive waters of certain portions of the upper gulf. The former he assigns to the presence of countless numbers of ciliate infusoria, suspended some distance below the surface of the water; and the latter to the presence of myriads of flagellate infusoria (the common noctiluca miliaris well known to conchologists) floating on the surface and thus giving the water a milky red appearance.

Among the shells for sale here, one may BUY CORALS IN BUCKLES, as large as bushel baskets, or in slender spires, pink and white, two or three feet tall; sea "urchins" of various birds, and the odd hippocampus or "sea horse"—besides a wonderfully beautiful ocean growth, a sort of marine fern, called divers' fans. These are found growing upright at the bottom of the gulf and are a mass of closely woven, spreading out like an eagle's great palm-leaf fan. They are a dark yellowish brown or terra cotta color, and show to best advantage when laid against a background of dead white. The ten feet long, and it is that I have secured is destined to line the back and sides of a new cabinet, in which to stick the sea-horses, star fish, ocean-anemones, etc., etc., as an appropriate backing for larger shells and corals.

The most successful mining enterprise on the peninsula is that near the little village of Chufo, about forty miles southeast of La Paz, near San Antonio, a former mission. The mines, seven in number, called La Castitas (little houses), are owned and operated by Americans. Bailment to the amount of \$50,000 per month has been procured with but one 96-stamp mill, while enough ore is in sight to quadruple that amount were there proper machinery. The ore is brought on the backs of mules from the mines to the stamp-mill, where it is crushed, then washed and amalgamated with mercury in large vats; finally this mercury is driven off by heat, and the remaining silver is run into bars of twenty pounds each. Then it is sent to La Paz in wagons, from thence shipped to San Francisco. The process of reducing the ore by means of acids has been successfully tried, and will probably come into general use at no distant day, on account of the scarcity of fire-wood for the roasting process.

Gold has been found in small quantities toward the peak of San Jacinto, near whose southern end the U. S. navy department maintains a coal depot, where a supply of anthracite is kept for the use of its vessels of war in case of emergency. A temporary landing-place has been made, and the coal is transported in lighters. There is a salt lagoon on this island, which yields large quantities of salt by natural evaporation. Tradition has it that a vast amount of treasure was lost here at some early day, and many a persistent but unsuccessful search has been made for it by the credulous natives.

All about here are numberless islands, great and small—none inhabited and many of them wholly unexplored. Their secrets, as well as the precious metal, if they contain any, will not be revealed to man for many generations to come; and even the pearl-oyster beds, lying within the shoals of their lofty cliffs, are well guarded by the long-armed octopus.

FANNIE B. WARD.

## CHOLERA IN MICHIGAN.

Dr. F. D. Lark, of Rogers City, Michigan, says the epidemic of last year in Presque Isle county, in which so many persons lost their lives, was choleric dysentery instead of cholera as first reported. He used Chamberlain's colic, cholera and diarrhea remedy, and says it succeeded where all other remedies failed. Not a single case was lost in which it was used. This remedy is the most reliable and most successful medicine known for cholera, cholera morbus, dysentery, diarrhea and bloody flux. Twenty-five and 50 cent bottles for sale by Dr. C. M. L. drug department.

## INTERNATIONAL PANORAMA

Next door west of Herald building, open from a. m. to 9 p. m. This week a tour of the Rhine. Change of panorama weekly. Admission 25c. six tickets for \$1.

## A NEW ADVERTISING MEDIUM.

F. R. Ross is canvassing Salt Lake and will go to Ogden to-day to canvass there for an advertising album containing some charming views taken on the line of the Union Pacific, Denver & Rio Grande and Southern Pacific, including birdseye views of Salt Lake, San Francisco and Denver. The album will be placed in one hundred hotels in Colorado and Utah, and will form excellent advertising mediums to Utah merchants.

## TO THE LADIES.

The dressmaking parlors of Will Ahpel, who has been on a business tour in the east, will be re-opened on August 21, when he will be prepared to do all kinds of high-class dressmaking. Ladies desiring the latest novelties will do well to call at his dressmaking parlors, in the Scott-Auerbach building, where Madame Hall will be pleased to show them his new assortment of fall and winter goods.

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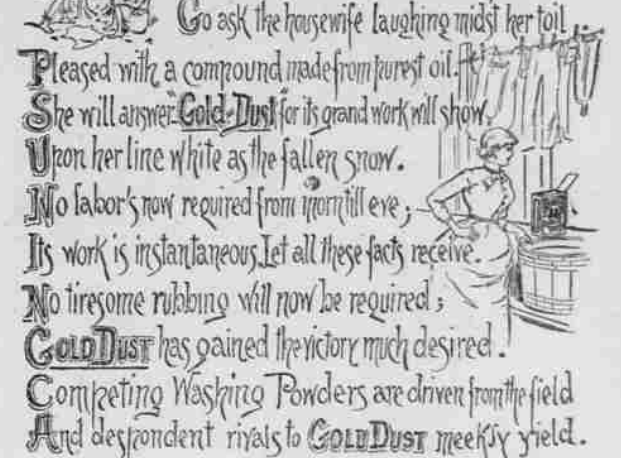
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